

ST. AUSTELL,

JANUARY, 1897.

TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. AUSTELL.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour and pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report giving an account of the Sanitary Work accomplished in the several districts, a general outline of the work in hand, and also what we are contemplating to accomplish in the future.

Zymotic Diseases.—The chief Zymotic disease we had to contend with during the year was Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever. — About the commencement of the year this disease was at St. Blazey and the surrounding neighbourhood, and continued during the whole year. During the latter months the cases were not so numerous. No less than fifteen cases from that neighbourhood were reported during January month. At the same time a few scattered cases occurred in St. Stephens parish. From information received I visited, in company with your Inspector, the High Street Board Schools, in St. Stephens, and found some of the children there who were desquamating and in a highly infectious state. Immediate action was taken in disinfecting the school and homes of the children, and in isolating the affected cases. The disease did not extend beyond four families. Seventy-seven cases were reported to me, and of these forty-three occurred in St. Blazey and Tywardreath parishes; and, although the cases were numerous, I am pleased to inform you that there was not a single fatality.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—This disease frequently accompanies Scarlet Fever; but the cases connected with the disease just mentioned were few. There was an exception at Bugle and Rosevean, in St. Austell parish, where fifteen cases occurred; three at Rosevean proving fatal in one family. This outbreak I attributed to the general unsanitary condition surrounding the Board

School, there being no proper drains, and having soapy water and other refuse in pools about that place. This has been in a great measure remedied since. The place has been cleaned and disinfected, the school enlarged, and new closets constructed, which are supplied with water for flushing purposes. Altogether there were 36 cases throughout the Union with 4 deaths.

Typhoid Fever.—There were thirteen cases with two deaths. One case occurred at St. Dennis which was attributed to drinking impure water; one at Fowey, the origin of which is uncertain; another at Luney Lane, St. Ewe: this girl came from St. Austell town unwell, and she only lived a few days after reaching her home. Ten cases occurred at Gover, in St. Mewan parish. Here there were several navvies working on the railway, and living close by. It was thought that the water was impregnated, but four samples were sent for analysis to London, and nothing deleterious was found in any of them. I believe there was some doubt at first whether the cases were pure Typhoid or not. Only one case of these proved fatal.

Erysipelas occurred in each of the districts. There were altogether twenty-five cases, with two deaths. The deaths were in very young children:—in the preceding year there were twenty-one cases, with no deaths.

During last year there were one hundred and fifty cases of Zymotic disease reported, whilst for the previous year there were only one hundred and twelve. The mortality for last year has been .55 per 1000 of the population, whilst for 1895 it was .84. Although the number of cases increased in the past year the mortality was less.

Measles were imported from the Urban District, and not being notifiable, I cannot give an approximate idea of the number of cases. At Mount Charles and Charlestown the cases were so numerous that the Board Schools in both places were closed. Up to the present 3 deaths have occurred.

Sanitary Work.—The Sanitary Work accomplished during the year has been of a varied and extensive character. The drinking water has been improved in several places, and also extended. New pumps have been erected at the following places:—Mevagissey, one pump and a well reconstructed. At Kestle, St. Ewe, the well has been reconstructed, and a pump fixed thereon. At Gorran, and Gorran Haven the wells have been improved and a pump fixed on each well. At Trewoon, in St. Mewan, both wells have been improved, a new deep-well pump fixed in one case, and the other has been reconstructed. At St. Dennis the pumps have been reconstructed. At Enniscaven a new pump was erected and the well properly protected. At Terras, St. Stephens, we caused a new pump to be fixed on the well, which was in a most unsatisfactory condition. At Trelyon we compelled the landlord to sink a well and fix a deep well pump thereon: this has been done after a great deal of difficulty—so far it has answered most satisfactorily. Not far from this village there are two farm houses without any supply of drinking

water within a reasonable distance. The landlords in this instance have been most dilatory, and are trying to shirk their responsibility. We have used every endeavour to have this work accomplished quietly, but further delay will only encourage them to offer a stronger resistance. Your Authority will, I hope, proceed in this matter without delay. At Ruddle Moor we, after a great deal of difficulty, obtained a supply of drinking water: although at present there is a splendid supply, in summer it will be barely enough for the existing inhabitants, and we would therefore advise your authority to grant no more certificates on this supply of water for any new houses. At Sticker, in St. Mewan, the drinking water has been improved, and further improvements are in contemplation. At Carne Cross, in Luxulyan, about thirteen hundred feet of water supply pipe, (five inch) has been laid in connection with a new road which has been constructed by the Methrose Clay Company.

At St. Blazey the drainage has been improved and extended. The drainage of the Girls' school runs into a cesspit, and the overflow connected with a sewer. A vent shaft has also been fixed. A new drain has been laid at the back of the houses in Church street, and a defective well in Lower Green has been closed. Several closets have been erected. Three cases of overcrowding were reported, and others have had our attention—notices have been served, and in most cases complied with. The sanitary arrangements of the Boys' school are still in abeyance

At Port Mellon, Mevagissey parish, closets have been erected. A piped sewer has also been laid which discharges into the sea.

At Gorran the drainage has been extended, about a hundred feet of 9 inch pipe has been laid.

At Gorran Haven a considerable improvement has been made in the leat, and it is flushed daily. I think it would be desirable to divide the stream at the higher or North side of the village, and allow it to flow down in both water tables on either side of the street.

At Roche the drainage has been improved, cleaned and disinfected. There is still room for improvement, and for an extension of the drainage.

At Golant the drainage has been extended and improved. In the Special Drainage District the drainage has been extended, and when new houses have been erected they have been connected with the main sewer. Several hundred feet of piping have been laid.

Your Inspector has issued about three hundred notices, and nearly eight hundred nuisances have been abated.

This will give but a small idea of the work done in your district during the year, as, in addition to the foregoing, every infectious disease reported is visited, inspected, and disinfected, and notice given or served as deemed necessary.

